Opening of International Convention Centre to encourage tourism

†3520. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to open International Convention Centre in order to encourage the tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof; and

(c) to what extent tourism is likely to be boosted thereby and the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance has announced the setting up of Global Standard International Convention Centres in the country through private public partnership under the viability gap funding scheme. The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Finance has prioritized setting up of five Convention Centres in two categories as under:-

Category- I: Large Convention Centres with Exhibition facilities at Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore.

Category- II: Small Convention facilities at Goa and Jaipur

(c) The Convention tourism is an important and the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry. The Ministry of Tourism is, therefore, taking all steps to meet the requirements of the international conferences, conventions etc. and to tap this segment. The expenditure likely to be incurred on these convention centre will vary from place to place depending on the facilities offered etc.

Meeting of National Tourism Advisory Council

3521. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a meeting held recently, the National Tourism Advisory Council expressed serious concern over the fast depleting population of several wildlife animals;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of other discussions held during the meeting; and

(c) the action plan suggested to tackle the situation and save the tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In the meeting of the National Tourism Advisory Council held on 30th March, 2005, *inter-alia* the issue of depleting population of wildlife was raised in the context of setting up of a Crisis Management Cell in Ministry of Tourism to deal with such issues.

(b) Issues concerning building infrastructure with focused and coordinated efforts to cope with the large flow of tourist traffic, shortage of hotel accommodation, reduction/rationalization of taxes, improving railway infrastructure, involvement of local people/business houses in conservation of monuments, immigration problems, setting up of Convention Centres, setting up of a Tourist Promotion Board, etc. were raised by the Members.

(c) Suggestions were received for setting up of Sub-Groups involving representatives of State Governments, wherever required, to discuss the issues in greater details and make concrete recommendations.

Tourism Policy

3522. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any Tourism Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy aims to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade, and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination. The Policy, also aims to:

Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;

Acknowledge the critical role of private sector, with Government working as a proactive facilitator and catalyst;

Create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique